

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 H-02 L-03 AID-05 TRSE-00 /041 W

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R 271533Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1016

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, HO

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY RE LETTER FROM SOUTHEAST NATIONAL BANK,  
MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 0926, MARCH 10, 1975, STATE 050918

1. SUBJECT S.N.B. WROTE EMBASSY 30 JULY. DUE TO DEATH OF CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT'S WIFE, EMBASSY DELAYED ONE WEEK IN FORWARDING S.N.B. LETTER.
  2. RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT GUILLERMO BUESO DATED 19 AUGUST, SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF WHICH STATE: " THE PAYMENT WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BECAUSE THE ARTICLE IMPORTED HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BUYER, WHICH IS ONE OF THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN YHE LETTER OF CREDIT NO. 2526 OF 18 APRIL 1974 THROUGH THE SOUTHEASTERN FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MIAMI."
  3. THE ABOVE STATEMENT SEEMS IN CONFLICT WITH MR. R.A. CRONIN'S (PRESIDENT OF S.NMB.) LETTER OF FEBRUARY 24, 1975 IN WHICH HE STATES HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE HONDURAN AIR FORCE WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE PLANE AND THAT THE DELAY OF PAYMENT WAS DUE TO THE CENTRAL BANK CONCERN WITH MINOR DISCREPANCIES IN THE DOCUMENTATION. THE CENTRAL BAKN'S RESPONSE ALSO EXPLICITLY STATES THAT THE LETTER OF CREDIT INCLUDED CONDITIONS.  
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4. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE HAS DISCUSSED MATTER INFORMALLY WITH A SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONDURAN AIR FORCE. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT \$262 THOUSAND HAS BEEN PAID BY GOH TOWARD THE PACKAGE PURCHASE OF SIX F-86'S AND ONE T-33. SINCE THEY

HAVE PAID THIS AMOUNT THEY ARE NOT DISPOSED TO MAKE FURTHER PAYMENTS BECAUSE THE F-86'S HAVE NOT BEEN DELIVERED. FURTHER THE GOH IS CONSIDERING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST AEROTRADE INTERNATIONAL UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT TO RECOVER THE AMOUNTS ALREADY PAID.

5. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT THE T-33 HAS RECENTLY BEEN PLACED IN OPERATIONAL CONDITION AND HAS BEEN FLOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE DELIVERY.

6. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED S.N.B. A COPY OF THE BUESO LETTER OF 19 AUGUST WITH A COVERING LETTER, (COPY POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT). ALSO POUCHED IS COPY OF OUR RESPONSE TO LETTER RECEIVED FROM SENATOR LAWTON CHILES. EMBASSY ASSUMES DEPARTMENT WILL RESPOND TO REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDE PEPPER.) IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MR. CRONIN WAS IN TEGUCIGALPA IN THE MONTH OF JULY BUT DID NOT CONTACT EMBASSY. ON THE BASIS OF OUR PRESENT UNDERSTANDING, IT APPEARS THAT THE NEXT STEP FOR S.N.B. IS TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL TO FURTHER ITS CLAIM. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS A VERY COMPLICATED LEGAL SITUATION IN WHICH EMBASSY NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE JUDGEMENTS.  
SANCHEZ

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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